July 25, 1939. M. M. KOHLSTADT 2,167,178

CUSHION SUPPORT

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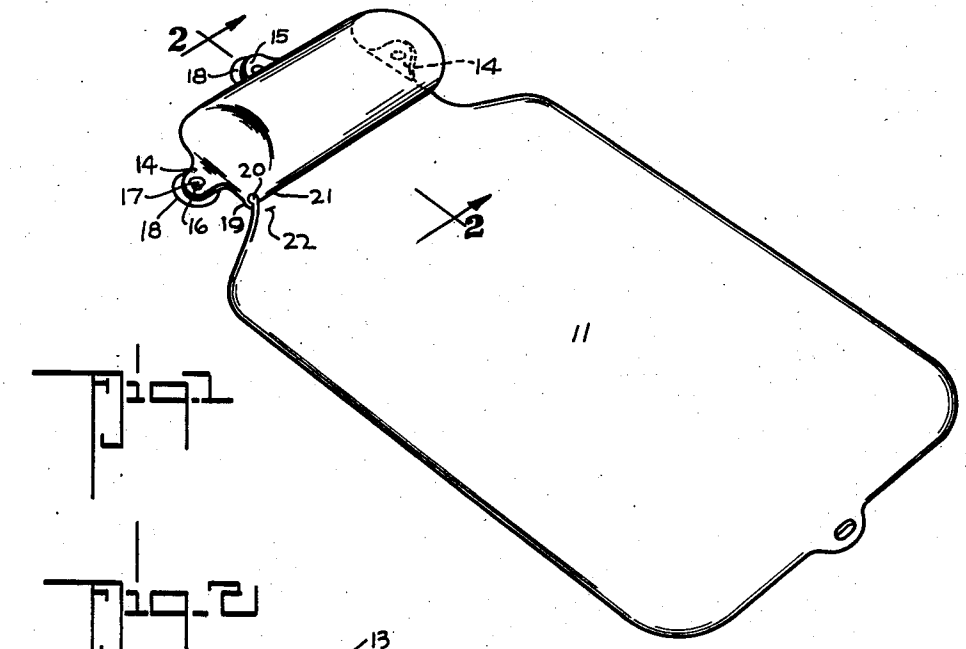


Fig. 1

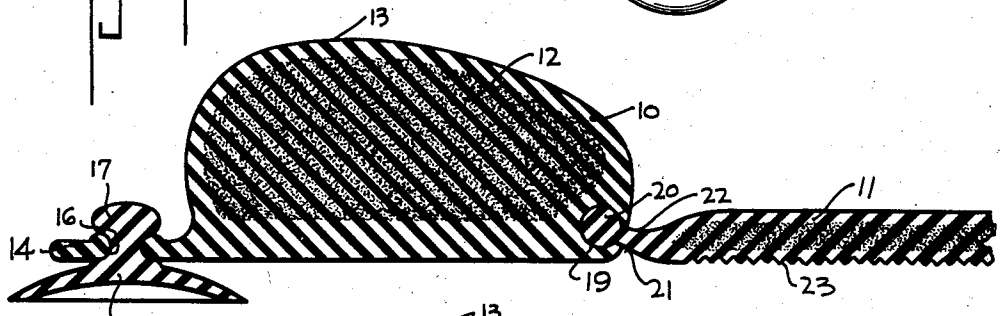


Fig. 2

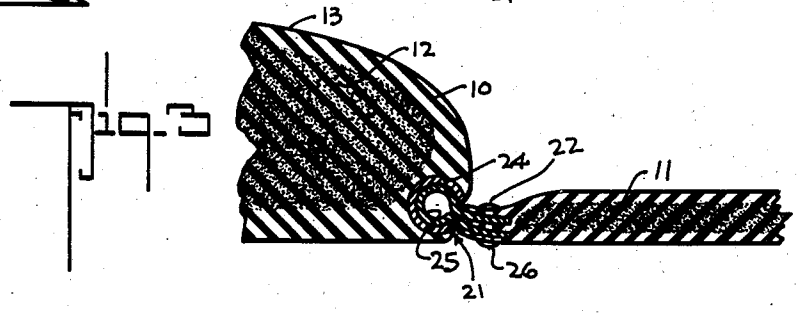


Fig. 3

MARIE M. KOHLSTADT
Inventor

By Herbert E. Smith

Attorney

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CUSHION SUPPORT

Marie M. Kohlstadt, Spokane, Wash.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 4—185)

The present invention relates to a cushion support for use in a bath tub for providing a head rest attachable to the walls of the bath tub and, in turn, supporting a cushion mat, together with means for uniting the head rest and the mat, or for dissociating the two members when it is desirable to use the mat as a foot mat instead of a body support connected to the head rest.

An object of the invention is to provide a head support or head rest attachable to the smooth surface of the foot of a bath tub to the end that a person or patient desiring to remain in the water for some length of time may lie prone in the tub in comfort with proper head support and with a proper cushion under the shoulders and spine.

A further object of the invention resides in a cushion support wherein the head rest may be dissociated from the cushion mat and whereby it may serve either with or without the head rest attached as a mat having the characteristics of a non-slip mat with respect to the tub and to the person using it.

It is a well known fact that many of the accidents in the home take place in the bath tub. Many broken limbs and other severe injuries are caused by slipping in tubs and it is intended in the present instance to provide means to materially reduce these accidents and, at the same time, to provide in the same unit, means for comfortable bathing and especially in the case of the sick and ill who must take baths over a long period of time at frequent intervals.

All of the foregoing and still further objects of the invention will become apparent from a study of the following specification, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein like characters or reference numbers designate corresponding parts throughout the several views and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the cushion support, disclosing an embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view taken on the lines 2—2 of Figure 1 and showing but a fragmentary portion of the cushion mat; and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary section illustrating an alternative manner for securing the cushion mat to the head rest.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, the numeral 10 represents, as a whole, a cushioned head rest with the mat 11 detachably secured thereto. The head rest is preferably formed of resilient material as rubber having an interior stuffing or cushion 12 of cellular construction, preferably of sponge rubber which will offer an excellent cushioned effect for the purpose of supporting a head during the period that a person is occupying the bath in a prone position.

This cushion is covered with a surface covering as 13 of a waterproof material having resilient qualities and preferably being made as one unit with the interior cushion 12. It is also contemplated that such head rest may be made of rubber or some preferred resilient material and inflated to accomplish similar results. The head rest as a whole is a longitudinal body of sufficient size for proper use as described, having ears or tabs 14 on the two ends of the body structure and preferably a tab as 15 centrally of the upper edge of the head rest, all of these tabs lying in a plane coincident with the bottom line of the head rest. Each of the tabs is provided with a resilient aperture 16 through which the button head 17 may be inserted to hold the suction cups 18 to the tabs. The head rest is further provided along its lower edge at 19 with a longitudinal groove forming a locking or retaining means for a cushion mat 11 which may be secured thereto, by forming in the upper edge of the mat, a longitudinal bead corresponding in size and shape to the groove 19, said groove having an open slot 21 along the lower bottom edge of the head rest to permit reception of the neck 22 carrying the bead 20 of the mat. When attaching the mat to the head rest the bead is inserted at one end of the groove 19 and drawn across until the bead has entirely entered the groove, at which time the cushion mat and head rest will be united and will serve to support the head of a bather when prone and also will provide a cushion for the neck, shoulder blades, and spine.

To detach the head rest from the mat, the reverse operation is performed and the mat may be used as an independent article and may become, if desired, a foot mat during the latter part of the bath and to prevent slipping. The cushioned mat 11 is made in a similar manner to that of the head rest, in that it has an interior, cellular cushion structure and an impervious outer surface to render it watertight.

In addition thereto the mat is provided with a corrugated or ribbed surface as 23 which further assists in maintaining the mat against slippage with the surface upon which it is supported, such as the bottom of the tub or the floor, linoleum, or tile adjacent thereto.

As an alternative method of securing the head rest and the cushion mat, I have utilized the

same general slot and bead construction, but have reinforced the same, preferably with the metal sections as 24 and 25, the first metallic section forming the groove element which need not be continuous, but preferably should be in short units to permit flexibility and shaping of the head rest to the contour of the foot portion or slope of the tub. Likewise, the bead member as 25 is formed in unit short sections and may be secured by a rivet as 26 or by being directly vulcanized into the upper edge of the cushion mat.

I have provided in a simplified structure a cushion support especially designed for patients and for those people who prefer to remain some time in the water and desire to be comfortably supported in a tub during that time, in which the head is supported by a proper cushion by suction cups which may be pressed against the tub surface to hold the rest in desired adjustment and wherein the cushion may be either attached thereto to support the upper portions of the body or may be detached and used independent thereof as a cushion and as a bath mat.

It is believed that the many advantages of this cushion support in accordance with the present invention will be readily understood, and although preferred embodiments of the device are illustrated and described, it is to be understood that further changes in the detail and construction may be resorted to which fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

In combination, a head rest adapted to be secured to a bath tub, said head rest having an inner cushion of resilient cellular formation and having an outer impervious surface, tabs extending outwardly from the head rest and supporting suction cups therein, a channel groove in the lower bottom edge of the head rest, a cushion mat having an inner cushion of resilient cellular structure and an impervious surface, a bead along one edge of the mat engaging in the channel formed in the lower bottom edge of the head rest whereby the head rest and the mat may be detachably secured to each other.

her
MARIE M. × KOHLSTADT.
mark

Witnesses to mark:
EVELYN DAHL.
FORD E. SMITH.